

RESPONSE

HONORABLE SIR:

Responsive to the official communication of March 19, 2003, Applicant submits the following Response.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Response. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 20-0823.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as indicated in the marked up claims below. As required, a clean version of the amended claims is attached.

Cancel claims 11, 30-33 and 37-40.

10. (Amended) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule, or nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto, comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a persephin polypeptide [or a fragment of said nucleotide sequence consisting of at least 15 nucleotides], wherein the persephin polypeptide

(a) comprises seven canonical framework cysteine residues,

(b) has at least [75%] 85% sequence identity with [SEQ ID NO:221 or] SEQ ID NO:223, and

(c) promotes survival of mesencephalic neuronal cells.

12. (Amended) The isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule or nucleic acid molecule complementary thereto of claim [11] 10 comprising [SEQ ID NO:183, SEQ ID NO:194,] SEQ ID NO:199 or SEQ ID NO:201.